

Appln No. 09/697,775
Amdt date September 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 2, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 52, 54-66, 68-79, 81-83, 111, 113-114, and 116-117 will be pending in this application upon entry of the above amendments. Claims 52, 66, and 117 have been amended. Claims 1-51, 53, 67, 80, 84-110, 112, 116, and 118-119 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejects claims 117-119 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because these claims depend on canceled claim 95. Claim 117, as amended, now depends on claim 66. Claims 118 and 119 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 52, 55-66, 69-73, 75-79, 81-82, 111, 113, 114, and 116-118 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408) in view of Moriyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,746) and Kitsukawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,713). Claims 54, 68, 83, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser, Moriyama, and Kitsukawa in view of Blacketter (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,438). Claims 112 and 115 are deemed to contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended independent claim 52 to include the limitations of claim 112, and canceled claim 112. Applicant has also amended claim 66 to include the limitations of claim 115, and canceled claim 115. Claims 52 and 66 are therefore now in condition for allowance

Claims 54-65 and 68-79, 81-83, 111, 113-114, and 116-117 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an

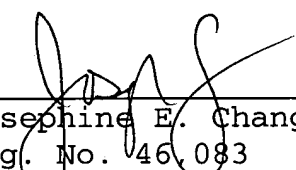
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allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 52, 54-66 and 68-79, 81-83, 111, 113-114, and 116-117.

Respectfully submitted,
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